



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

June 5, 2009

Ms. Elizabeth Tune, Richmond Manager, Office of Preservation Incentives
Mr. Marc Holma, Architectural Historian
Office of Review and Compliance
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221-0311

Dear Ms. Tune and Mr. Holma:

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 2009 providing feedback and comments on the revised Master Plan for the Laurel Hill adaptive reuse area. We are pleased that many of the changes to the plan met with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) approval. We are, however, requesting clarification on a few points in your letter, specifically in regard to historic tax credits.

1. Can you please clarify the VDHR review process for historic tax credits? The revised Master Plan is conceptual in nature, with additional detailed site planning to follow. The County would like clarification about the use of the Master Plan to make determinations about tax credit eligibility.
2. Does the VDHR tax credit review process consider preservation goals relative to economic realities? The County has prepared financial information about development of the adaptive reuse site it hopes to use as part of the tax credit discussion.
3. How will VDHR consider historic documentation and archival records from the County that have come to light since the preparation of the National Register nomination process in determining historic use and provenance? Information uncovered in the past year from the archival records of the DC Office of Corrections show that the ball field area was used, during the period of significance, as a general recreation field for multi-purpose activities including sporting events, concerts, and picnics. The revised Master Plan shows a community green and recreation open space. Programming this space for use by the entire community, we believe, is in keeping with the spirit of past use and activities.
4. Are there circumstances (or criteria) when historical elements can be altered or removed if VDHR determines the alteration or removal serves a higher preservation interest?

Mr. Marc Holma

June 5, 2009

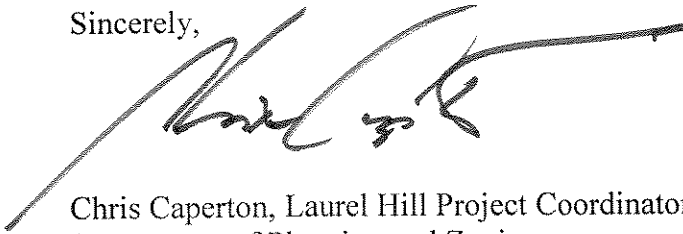
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5. Recognizing the need for further plan refinement and in-depth review by VDHR, does development of the adaptive reuse site, as shown in the revised Master Plan, appear to be a viable candidate for historic tax credits?

Thank you for the opportunity to ask for these clarifications and for your prompt reply. The information will assist County decision makers and stakeholders in understanding the VDHR process of project review and historic tax credit consideration.

We look forward to a continued and positive dialogue with VDHR. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (703) 324-1375.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Caperton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Caperton, Laurel Hill Project Coordinator
Department of Planning and Zoning

cc: Gerald W. Hyland, Supervisor, Mt. Vernon District
Jim Zook, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Linda Blank, Preservation Planner, Department of Planning and Zoning